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GP/3738  
PATENT  
Attorney Docket No.: 18608-001910US

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

On 3/7/01

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP

By: *Brad J. Loos*  
Brad J. Loos



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P. 1111  
S. Bryce  
3/15/01

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of:

DAVID G. MATSUURA et al.

Application No.: 09/663,250

Filed: September 14, 2000

For: ANNULOTOMY CLOSURE  
DEVICE

Examiner: Unassigned

Art Unit: 3738

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR §1.97 and  
§1.98

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The references cited on attached form PTO-1449 are being called to the attention of the Examiner. Copies of the references are enclosed. It is respectfully requested that the cited references be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and the references be made of record therein and appear among the "references cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

As provided for by 37 CFR 1.97(g) and (h), no inference should be made that the information and references cited are prior art merely because they are in this statement and

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no representation is being made that a search has been conducted or that this statement encompasses all the possible relevant information.

Applicant believes that no fee is required for submission of this statement, since it is being submitted prior to the first Office Action. However, if a fee is required, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct such fee from the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 20-1430. Please deduct any additional fees from, or credit any overpayment to, the above-noted Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



David R. Heckadon  
*Granted Limited Recognition under 37  
CFR §10.9(b)—see enclosed document*

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